



DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Dale J Schmidt Sheriff **Scott Mittelstadt** Chief Deputy

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: January 5, 2021

Sheriff Dale J. Schmidt

Office: 920-386-4115

dschmidt@co.dodge.wi.us

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office Recreation Patrol Deputy would like to remind those who are wishing to ice fish or engage in other activities on Dodge County lakes, that ice conditions on most of our lakes may not be suitable for normal winter recreation activities. Though temperatures have been below freezing over several days and ice has been forming, it may still be patchy and not sustainable to normal ice fishing or snowmobile/ ATV traffic on the waterways. The extended forecast shows that this week's temperatures will rise above freezing and could present additional risk to those who want to ice fish or recreate.

Motor vehicle traffic is not advisable on any waterway in Dodge County due to current ice conditions and there are still some open areas of water.

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office has responded to two reported incidents related to individuals recreating and falling through the ice in the past couple of weeks. All individuals were rescued without incident, but safety needs to be a top priority for those who decide to go out on the ice. Remember ice conditions can vary from waterbody to waterbody and they can change in a matter of hours.

If you decide to go out on the ice, consider wearing a USCG approved life jacket, have ice safety picks easily available and inform a friend or family member your location and duration of your activities. Make sure to check local ice reports and physically check the ice where you plan to be.

FACTS TO KNOW:

- Avoid inlets and outlets that have a current because that can make the ice thin.
- Clear ice is thicker than ice with bubbles in it or with snow on it.
- Just because you see someone on the ice, it does not mean it is safe. Do your due diligence and get the facts yourself.
- Do not be on the ice alone. If you are planning to go out and ice fish, snowmobile, ski or snowshoe on the ice alone, make sure people know where you are going, when you will be back and, if possible, bring a cell phone.
- If you are going out on the ice at night, slow down. Even if you are familiar with your surroundings, things can look a lot different at night. Headlights and flashlights do not project very far. Going slow allows you to see any possible dangers.

Questions may be directed to Sheriff Dale J. Schmidt.

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